

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 INT-08 FEA-02 EB-11 COME-00 TRSE-00 DLOS-07

IO-14 COA-02 DRC-01 /155 W
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R 241342Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3772

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

CINCUSNAVEUR

EUCOM

CINCUSAFE

CINCUSAREUR

USDOCOSOUTH

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GERMANY/EC J-2

USNMR SHAPE

UNCLAS ANKARA 3087

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PBOR, PFOR, LOS, ENGR, GR, TU

SUBJECT: TURKISH-GREEK DISPUTE OVER OIL EXPLORATION
IN THE AEGEAN

EUCOM FOR POLAD AND J-2

BEIRUT FOR VOA ROBERTS

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REF: ANKARA 2957

1. ACCORDING TO USUALLY WELL-INFORMED TURKISH JOURNALIST NILUFER YALCIN, REPORTING IN THE APRIL 23 MILLIYET, GREECE HAS SUGGESTED TO TURKEY THAT BOTH COUNTRIES SUSPEND OIL PROSPECTING IN THE AEGEAN UNTIL THE DISPUTE OVER THE CONTINENTAL SHELF HAS BEEN RESOLVED. ACCORDING TO YALCIN'S ACCOUNT, THE GREEK PROPOSAL WAS PRESENTED TO TURKISH FOREIGN MINISTER TURAN GUNES THROUGH CONTACTS AT THE RECENT UNGA SPECIAL SESSION IN NEW YORK.

2. GUNES REPORTEDLY SAID TURKEY WOULD NEVER ALLOW THE AEGEAN TO BE TURNED INTO A "GREEK LAKE", AND THAT TALKS WERE NECESSARY TO RESOLVE THE DISPUTE OVER THE SHELF; OTHERWISE, TURKEY WOULD COMMENCE OIL PROSPECTING IN THE AREA. ACCORDING TO YALCIN, GUNES SAID THE FACT THAT NATO HAD GIVEN TO GREECE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF DEFENDING THE AEGEAN IN TIME OF WAR WAS A DUTY, NOT A RIGHT; THERE WAS NO AGREEMENT GIVING ATHENS THE RIGHT TO LAY CLAIM TO THE AREA BECAUSE OF THESE DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES. GUNES REPORTEDLY SAID TURKEY WOULD NOT SEEK PERMISSION FROM ATHENS TO HOLD MANEUVERS IN THE AEGEAN, WHICH TURKEY CONSIDERS TO BE HIGH SEAS.
MACOMBER

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